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Page 1 of 3

URGENT - FURTHER REPLY TO FINAL ADVISORY ACTION
FORWARD TO DR. RHAMDANIE AND MR. WALTER GRIFFIN WITHOUT DELAY

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In the matter of:

FEB 25 2010

INVENTORS: Solomon Zaromb et al. EXAMINER: Dr. Bobby Ramdhanie

SERIAL NO.: 10/710,838

ART UNIT: 1709

FILED: August 5, 2004

FOR: AEROSOL COLLECTION APPARATUS AND METHODS

RE ARRANGED TELECONFERENCE

February 25, 2010

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

SIR:

In anticipation of our teleconference on Thursday, March 4, 2010, kindly set by Dr. Rhamdanie for the time slot of 3-3:30 P.M. Eastern Time, including Mr. Griffin, at telephone number 571-272-1447, it is respectfully requested that the conferees have at hand the Patent No. 5,085,673 of Bentley et al. to facilitate the discussion. The parts of that patent to be touched upon are Figs. 1 and 3 and the related text, starting with Column 2, Line 60, and ending with Column 3, Line 64. The following questions will be addressed to the Examiner:

1. Since the rejections of our claims are based on Point 27, Pages 6-7, of the last Office Action (mailed 12/2/2009), which asserts that "Bentley discloses in a wet electrostatic precipitation-based apparatus for detecting the presence of an airborne chemical or biological analyte," where in the text pertaining to Fig. 1 [Column 2, Line 4, through Column 3, Line 16], which pertains to detection, is there any mention of electrostatic precipitation?
2. In Fig. 3, aside of the electrostatic precipitator that is appended to the end of the system, where in the diagram is there a "collector tube and discharge electrode forming part of said chamber" that is recited in our below-copied basic claim 1 or a "sampling means forming part of said containing means" that is recited in our below-copied basic claim 5?

Official

Page 2 of 3

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Claim 1. In wet electrostatic precipitation-based apparatus for detecting the presence of an airborne chemical or biological analyte, the improvement comprising:

a gas- and liquid-containing chamber;

means for introducing an analyte-free collection liquid into said chamber; and

means for rapidly sampling a volume of ambient air and transferring said analyte therefrom into said collection liquid, said sampling means comprising an air intake means, an air venting means, and means for removing from said chamber an analyte-enriched collection liquid;

wherein said volume of air passes through a substantially horizontal air inlet and thence through a substantially vertical electrically conductive collector electrode tube with means for applying and adjusting an electric field between said tube and a co-axial spiked wire- or rod-shaped discharge electrode, **said collector tube and discharge electrode forming part of said chamber**, wherein said electric field is high enough to effectuate a corona discharge so as to generate ionized particles that could be driven towards said collector electrode by an electric field, and wherein said removing means comprises means for feeding said enriched liquid to an appropriate detector or storing said liquid for subsequent analysis.

Claim 5. In a wet electrostatic precipitation-based method for detecting the presence of an airborne chemical or biological analyte, the improvement comprising the steps of:

providing a gas- and liquid-containing means;

introducing an analyte-free collection liquid into said containing means;

rapidly passing a volume of ambient air through a **sampling means forming part of said containing means** and comprising an air intake means and an air venting means and transferring said analyte therefrom into said collection liquid by passing said volume of air through a substantially horizontal air inlet and thence through a substantially vertical collector electrode tube while applying an electric field between said tube and a co-axial spiked wire- or rod-shaped discharge electrode, wherein said electric field is high enough to effectuate a corona discharge so as to generate ionized particles that could be driven towards said collector electrode by an electric field;

and removing from said containing means an analyte-enriched collection liquid and either feeding it to an appropriate detector or storing it for subsequent analysis.

The Examiner's answers to the above two questions will be highly appreciated.

Official

Page 3 of 3

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CERTIFICATION OF FAXING

The undersigned hereby certifies that this response is about to be transmitted to fax number 571-273-8300 on or about February 25, 2010.



Solomon Zaromb